

FRIENDLY ADVICE

TO A

Child Unborn.

A

Little Piece of POETRY, with very
long NOTES.

By a Person of Learning, as you may see by the MOTTO.

Huc ades, hæc animo concipe dicta tuo.

LIL. GRAM.

L O N D O N :

Printed for M. COOPER, at the Globe in *Pater-noster-Row*.

(Price Six-pence.)

FRIENDLY ADVICE

TO A

Child Unborn.

This Piece of Poetry, with very
long notes.

By a Person of Learning, as you may see by the Motto.

The author has written several other
works.

L O N D O N :

Printed for M. Cooper, at the Globe in Pall-mall.

(Price six-pence.)



To the READER.

ALL that will be said, Prefatory to this extraordinary little POEM, is by way of Note on the HUC ADES in the Motto.

N O T E.

How the Author cou'd be guilty of so great a Blunder, as to bid the Child unborn come to him, I cannot conceive. If we allow the Probability of its hearing the Advice, we will never admit the Possibility of its walking to receive it.

Some Critics, I know there are, who excuse the Poet by applying the *Huc ades* to the Mother, and the rest of the Sentence to the Child; but, when we consider the Lady's Condition, and that it, probably, renders her not a little unwieldy, it wou'd argue the greatest want of Politeness imaginable to use the Expression to her. So that, in short, I am for leaving the two first Words of the Motto entirely out.----Learned Reader, what say you?

Friendly

To the READER.

ALL that will be said, Prefatory to this extraordinary little POEM, is by way of Note on the HUC ADRES in the Motto.

NOTE.

How the Author could be guilty of so great a blunder, as to bid the Child unborn come to him, I cannot conceive. If we allow the Probability of its hearing the Advice, we will never admit the Possibility of its walking to receive it.

Some Critics, I know, there are, who excuse the Poet by applying the Verse not to the Mother, and the rest of the Sentence to the Child; but, when we consider the Lady's Condition, and that it is probable, perhaps not a little unwelcome, it would argue the Poet's want of Poetic license, imaginable to use the Expression to her. So that, in short, I am for leaving the two first Words of the Motto entirely out—I feared Reader, what say you?

F. Hayley

Friendly Advice to a Child Unborn.

¹ **O** Thou that art the Lord alone knows what,
 And art to be the Lord alone knows who,
 (A Beau, a Judge, an Alderman, or Wit,
 A Belle, a Slattern, or a ² Housewife rare)
³ Hear my Advice, and ponder well my Words.

B

When

N O T E S.

¹ *O, Thou that art, &c.*] The Proem or Preface to the Advice is very just : for what the Child is before it is born, or the Condition in Life it will arrive to afterwards, the Wit of Man cannot find out.

² *A Housewife.*] Read an Housewife.

³ *Hear my Advice.*] How the Author convey'd his Advice to the Infant's Ear is uncertain. He must either have been shamefully near, or have spoken prodigious loud at some more decent Distance.

When nine kind Months their strength'ning Aid
 have lent,
 And 'mail'd with callous Hide thy slender Bones,
 Fit to endure a cold inclement Air,
 And the rough Touch of a 'He-Midwife's Hand,
 Exert thy Pow'r, a Mother's Life's at Stake,
⁶ And ease her painful Moments all thou canst.

Till

NOTES.

* *Mail'd with callous Hide.*] Very Poetical.

^s *A He-Midwife.*] Read an He-Midwife.—Here now we are let somewhat into the Quality of the Parents: and to me, it appears evident, that they must be Persons of great Distinction, because the Fees of these masculine Husseys are so very exorbitant, that it is impossible for any other to employ them.

⁶ *And ease her painful Moments.*] He expresses a very great Tenderness for the Mother. If he is her Husband, All's very well; but whether he is or is not, the Reader may be assured of this, and rest satisfied, that it is not in the Power of Comment or Annotation to find it out.

Till then lie quiet in thy little Cell
 Nor crave too much, but ⁷ temperately live,
 Else, when ⁸ *Lucina* beckons thee abroad,
 Wedg'd in the ⁹ narrow Passage ¹⁰ thou'lt remain,
 Then

NOTES.

⁷ *Temperately live.*] What physical Reason the Poet can give for a Child's Volition at so tender an Age, I know not; but, however, moral Precepts cannot, possibly, be grafted too early in the Minds of Youth.

⁸ *Lucina.*] The Goddess of Child-bearing.

⁹ *Narrow Passage.*] 'Tis difficult to say much on the Subject Matter of this Note, with a grave Face; and, therefore, I shall, in very few Words, proceed to give the simpering Reader the Author's Meaning. Know then, my waggish Friend, that you are to understand nothing more by the *Narrow Passage* than *This*, that whenever the Infant comes to Light, about whom all this Rout is made, it will, most incontestably, be the Lady's First-born.

¹⁰ *Thou'lt*, for *thou wilt*, two Words pronounced as one Syllable, for Harmony Sake.

Then pungent Tortures scarce to be endur'd,
 And Agonies too great to be express'd,
 The ¹¹ Parent suffers ere thy Jolthead's out,
 And when it is, she ¹² eyes it with Concern.
 But if thy little ¹³ Reason has prevail'd

And

¹¹ *The Parent.*] Some of the Learned read *Thy Parent*, others *Thy Parents*, because a fond Husband is almost in as much Pain and Anxiety, in this distressful Moment, as the Mother herself.

¹² *She eyes it with Concern.*] If you approve best of the latter Part of the Criticism, in the Note above, you must read, *They eye it with Concern*; that is, they are fearful it will prove a Simpleton, according to the Observation of our Ancients, "*A great Head and little Wit.*"

¹³ *Little Reason.*] It is difficult to determine what Reason there is in a Person so young, but in all Probability, no great Abundance.

And ¹⁴ sensual Appetite been duly check'd,
 The ¹⁵ Goddess pleas'd facilitates thy Birth,
 And ¹⁶ welcome as you enter'd you'll return.

NOTES.

¹⁴ *Sensual Appetite.*] The Word *sensual* must be pronounced as if it had but two Syllables.

¹⁵ *The Goddess pleas'd facilitates thy Birth.*] This Line contains a very pretty Moral :---It gives us to understand, that the Babe's Conduct has been regarded by the Deity ; and that Virtue will, most assuredly, meet with its Reward.

¹⁶ *And welcome as you enter'd you'll return.*] Merry enough ! Very plainly importing, that it will be receiv'd by the Lady with prodigious Delight.

C

Various

Various OPINIONS concerning this P O E M.

A CERTAIN Nobleman, greatly distinguished for his admirable Abilities, is pleas'd to say, that he had rather be the Author of this small Performance, than of all the Works of *Homer*, *Virgil*, and *Horace* put together. This, no doubt, must make the Author not a little vain.

Some very learned Divines, but of the demurer Sort, have given us to understand, that, if a few ludicrous Expressions were left out, such as the *Narrow Passage*, and the whole last line, no-body need be ashamed of owning the Work.

An arch Woman of Quality is of another Opinion: The Subject, she says, is of so droll a Nature, that it will admit of a great many more Pleasantries; and, if she knew the Author, she wou'd supply him with several embellishing Hints against the next Edition.

The Men-midwives are in a great Pudder. — And, all the Pretty Fellows complain of the want of Smut.

But there is no such Thing as pleasing every Body.

And

And now, my good Friends who have laid your Money out upon this Work, give me leave to observe to you, that very much of the Beauty of the Poem consists in its Conciseness. Had the Author said more, he wou'd have been very injudicious, it wou'd have too much burthen'd the Memory of the Child ; and had he said less, he might e'en as well have said nothing at all.

And further, let me just mention to you the great Usefulness of critical Notes ; had it not been for them, tho' the Piece might have been tolerably well understood by the sagacious and penetrating Reader, you will certainly allow that it cou'd not possibly have sold for half the Price.

F I N I S.

And now, my good Friend, who has lent your Money
out upon this Work, give me leave to observe to you, that
very much of the Beauty of the Poem consists in its Con-
ciseness. Had the Author said more, he would have been
very injudicious; it would have too much burdened the
Memory of the Child; and had he said less, he might even

as well have said nothing at all.

And I think, let me just mention to you the great Use-
fulness of critical Notes; but it is not here for them, tho'
the Poem might have been tolerably well understood by
the Eye, and yet wanting in many places, you will certainly
allow that it could not possibly have been so well as this.

F I M I S



